
2. The Impact of Government Policies towards the Economy and Education of Fishermen's Children in Padang City

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The Impact of Government Policies towards the Economy and Education of Fishermen's Children in Padang City

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Abstract: This study aimed at analyzing the impact of government policies towards the economy and education of fishermen's children of Minangkabau and Nias ethnics in Padang City. This study used the qualitative method with a case study approach. The main data sources were gathered from structured interview to eight fisherman families and were analyzed thematically using NVivo 10 software as the qualitative analysis instrument. The result of the study discussed four essential themes namely; first, the government policies towards the fisherman had been capable of improving their economy both Minangkabau and Nias ethnics. Second, the economic improvement for Minangkabau ethnics had an impact towards their life proven by the increasing quality of their children's education from the primary level until the higher education level. Third, the economic improvement for Nias ethnics, on the other hand, had no impact at all towards their children's education quality. Fourth, the impact differences regarding the children's education of both ethnics were caused by culture, parents' mindset, and children's interest in education. According to parents and fishermen's children of Minangkabau ethnic, education matters a lot for the sake of pursuing a brighter future, while according to parents and fishermen's children of Nias ethnic, education does not really matter.

Keywords: Policies, economy, education, fishermen, ethnic, Minangkabau, Nias

1. Introduction

Every policy made by the government must rely on the community empowerment in order to be able to play important roles in increasing the human resources quality, particularly on the aspects of economic and educational improvement. Therefore, the community will be capable of achieving a higher quality of life (Miradj & Sumarno, 2014:109). This is because the economy and education aspects are among parameters and instruments to assess life quality of a society [7]. Economic issues are not only made as an instrument, but also a matter that is worth discussing. This is because an economic drawback of a country will lead to social problems in the middle of society (Sumardjono, 2008). Furthermore, education issues are crucial matters; since someone's high or low education can change his lifestyle, way of thinking, work ethic, confidence, and personality (Murniyetti and Engkizar & Anwar, 2016: 158). Moreover, a society with a low level of education will have some limitation to improve themselves and to get involved in the access of better economic resources and may experience poverty and backwardness. According to Dumciuviene (2011: 2433), to face the era of global economy, a person at least must possess five skills namely i) early school leavers, ii) mathematics, iii) science and technology (MST), vi) completion of upper secondary education and Basic skills and v) lifelong learning



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As a maritime country, Indonesia is a country with the longest coastline, that is, 81,000 kilometers. The enormous marine potential can certainly be utilized economically by the society. However, the wealth of marine resources has not been well-managed (Kusnadi, 2002: 1). As the evidence, there are 9,261 indigent and problematic fishermen parents regarding the issues of their children's education. Traditional fisherman community is a social group of the neediest social layers [19]. According to Suryanto (1992), the society living in the coastal area is generally the group of structural poverty. Therefore, the empowerment of fisherman community related to economic and educational issues should be put into a priority by the government. In other words, every policy made must have impacts towards both aspects. In addition, Indonesia as a developing country is obliged to increase the life quality of its society.

Indonesian government through some related ministries has made a resolution to overcome the life issues of fisherman community throughout Indonesia, particularly the ones related to their economic and educational improvement. One of the policies made by the government is Community Direct Assistance Program-Rural Interest Business Development (BLM-PUMP). The implementation of this program is in the form of the productive business capital fund as much as Rp. 100,000,000,- (one hundred million rupiahs) to be utilized by the fishermen for purchasing their business needs such as boat engine, nets, ropes, ballast tools, threads, lights, life jackets, and boat repair costs [24].

According to Haerul & Hamdan (2016), the policy is a system covering input, process, and output. The success of public policy implementation can be seen through its impacts on the policy receivers (Rohman, 2016:3; Wahyudi, 2016; Godin, Rein & Moran, 2006; and Nasdian, 2014). Considering the impact of the government policies towards fishermen empowerment regarding this study, it refers to a program aiming at improving their feasible economic quality and good education. Therefore, they will be able to foster their confidence and perform their tasks and responsibilities of a life well [4], [23].

Based on the results of the study conducted by Kusnasi (2009) and Karisma et al (2018), one of the indicators of a successful policy in empowering the fishermen community is a change in their economic condition and the improvement of the fishermen's children education quality. Therefore, the researcher focused on discussing the impact of government policies towards the improvement of the traditional fishermen's children economy and education.

2. Methodology

The study was conducted in the traditional fishermen community in Padang City of West Sumatra Province. To narrow the research location, the researcher took two community groups and two different ethnics namely Minangkabau ethnic fishermen living in West Padang District and Nias ethnic fishermen living in South Padang District. All the data were taken from in-depth interview towards eight fishermen families accepting government assistance fund. All the interview data were analyzed thematically using qualitative analytical instrument namely Nvivo 10. Nvivo 10 qualitative analytical instrument was used in order that the results of the study can be easily described, grouped, understood, and comprehended by the readers (Braun & Clarke, 2012 & Engkizar et.al, 2018).

3. Results of the Study

Based on the researcher's direct interview with all the informants, the results of the study indicated that the government policies through the direct fund program have actually increased the fishermen community's economy and income both for Minangkabau and Nias ethnics. Such improvement according to the informants has achieved 20% to 25%; meaning that there was increased revenue since the fishermen received the direct fund. The information regarding the income improvement of both fishermen ethnics was conveyed by the informants in various language-style deliveries. However, they basically conveyed the same message. The quotes of interview results with the whole informants were outlined in Table 1.1 below:

Table 1.1: Interview quotes regarding the impact Community Direct Assistance Program-Rural Interest Business Development (BLM-PUMP) towards the traditional fishermen's economic improvement

No	Data Sources	Interview Quotes
1	Informants 1,3,6,7,8, & 9 of Minangkabau Ethnic	After I received fund from the government, my economic income and my fish catch were increasing (1). My economy has increased by around 20% to 25% (3) after we received the Community Direct Assistance Program-Rural Interest Business Development (BLM-PUMP) from the central government. The fishermen here looked happy because their catch was increasing and we earned more money. Ha ha ha (6). Among the positive impacts of the fund is that we have a better economy (7). There was an increase in terms of both fish catch and the amount of money that we earned. We thanked the government (8). Apart from the increase in the fish catch, our economy has improved. We can send children to school, ma'am (9).
2	Informants 10,11,14,16,17&18 of Nias Ethnic	We previously found it hard to sail because our fishing gear was still traditional. Now we have better fishing gear that we purchased with the fund given by the government. We also earned more money (10). The increase achieved 25% (11). I did enjoy the benefits of the Community Direct Assistance Program-Rural Interest Business Development (BLM-PUMP) Fund. My fishermen friends are also happy because their fish catch got multiplied (14). There was an increase after we got the fund. It is enough for supporting our living cost and family needs (16). I and my fishermen friends personally thanked the central government for helping the lower-middle class society like us (17). If I can feel the economic improvement in my life, I hope the government will give use another fund next time. Ha ha ha (18).

Referring the description of interview quotes in Table 1.1 above, it can be understood that the government policy done by giving Community Direct Assistance Program-Rural Interest Business Development (BLM-PUMP) fund has generally improved the economy of the fishermen both Minangkabau and Nias ethnics. Specifically, this program has successfully given direct impacts to the fishermen community. Furthermore, there are some other impacts of the Government Direct Fund towards the fishermen's children education. Based on the researcher's interview results and survey of the families of both fisherman groups, two very different results were identified. For the fishermen families of Minangkabau ethnic, the economic improvement has affected positively towards the improvement of their children's education quality. This is because the fishermen of Minangkabau ethnic did not wish their children to make a living as fishermen like their parents. The fishermen community of Minangkabau ethnic has always dreamt that their children have good access to education until the university level.

Besides, the fishermen of Minangkabau ethnic have a point of view that education is an important matter for their children so that they will be able to get a more adequate job and improve their life quality. Furthermore, the parents of Minangkabau ethnic do not wish to inherit the fisherman occupation to their children. The description of Minangkabau-ethnic fishermen's children's graduation level of education can be seen in Figure 1.1 below:

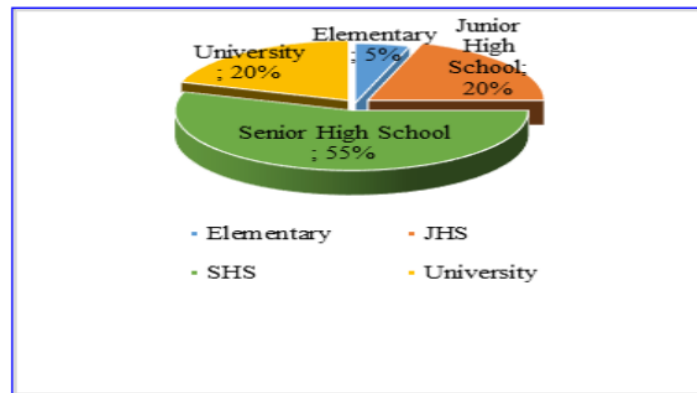


Figure 1. Description of Minangkabau-ethnic fishermen's children's graduation level of education

From the data above, it can be explained that the fishermen community of Minangkabau ethnic has successfully sent their children to access education. The data above illustrated that 20% of fishermen's children of Minangkabau ethnic have graduated from the higher education level (college). 55% have finished Senior High School level, 20% have finished Junior High School level, and only 5% are Elementary School graduates.

A different circumstance occurred in the fishermen community of Nias ethnic. Despite the fact that the direct fund given by the government has elevated their economy, but it had no impact towards the improvement of their children's education quality. This is because according to the fishermen of Nias ethnic, their excessive income should be used to improve their asset and fishing gear equipment. Eventually, their children's education was a little neglected. The description of Nias-ethnic fishermen's children's graduation level of education can be seen in Figure 1.2 below:

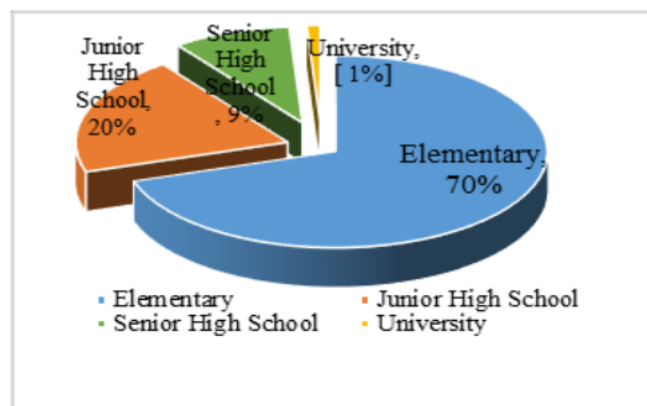


Figure 2. Description of Nias-ethnic fishermen's children's graduation level of education

From the data above, it can be explained that the economic improvement of Nias-ethnic fishermen community has no impact towards the improvement of their children's education quality. The data above illustrated that only 1% of Nias-ethnic fishermen's children who had graduated from the higher education level (college). 9% finished their Senior High school, 20% finished their Junior

High School, and 70% only finished Elementary School level. The low quality of Nias-ethnic fishermen's children was actually influenced by the culture and characteristics of Nias community themselves. They were less motivated and less enthusiastic when discussing education. The children of Nias ethnic have taken part in helping their parents to make a living in a young age. Therefore, the education issue was neglected.

4. Discussion

In the last few decades, poverty has become an intriguing issue which is worth discussing in various national and international forums. The fact showed that the current national development has not been capable of reducing the increasing number of indigent inhabitants in the world, particularly in a developing country like Indonesia (Priyono & Pranarka, 1996). According to Suryawati (2005), poverty has often been related to the economic dimension, since it is most easily observed, measured, and compared. Even though poverty also has something to do with social, cultural, political, environmental, health, educational, and religion dimensions. To find a resolution for this matter, the formulation of a good and well-planned policy is necessary (Dumciuviene, 2015: 2431).

Various studies state that most of the fishermen societies relied too much on the economic sources from the utilization of marine and coastal resources (Nikijuluw, 2001). Besides, the coastal fishermen society generally only worked as small fishermen, fishermen laborers, small-scale fish processors, and small trader because they had limited investment ability. Thus, fishermen's bargaining power was low (Warlina, 2004). Another problem faced by the fishermen was the exploitative relational pattern between the capital owner and the laborers and fishermen. In addition, the seasonal and unsustainable characteristics of fishermen's business had given the indigent society in the coastal area some difficulties to escape from the poverty snare and the debt entanglement of the traders and boat owners (Febrianto & Rahardjo, 2005).

Nevertheless, based on the data of the study, the government policies through the direct fund to the fishermen had proven to have positive impacts towards the economic improvement and the revenue of Minangkabau ethnic and Nias-Ethnic fishermen in Padang City of West Sumatra Province. The result of the study supported by Siregar (2016) concluded that the fund assistance program has given positive impacts towards the fishermen economic improvement. Despite the fact that the government fund assistance to the fishermen of Minangkabau and Nias ethnics had improved their economy, not every member of the fishermen community was aware of the importance of education to their children. According to the researcher's finding, education for Nias-ethnic fishermen was not in the priority list of the parents, even though they had been economically improved compared to their previous circumstance (Shah & Selamat, 2014). The researcher believed that some educative methods need to be done to cut the chain of the problem and to avoid it from occurring hereditarily.

The researcher gave exceptional appreciation to Minangkabau-ethnic fishermen since the parents of this ethnic have good awareness towards their children's education. Minangkabau-ethnic fishermen did not wish their children to inherit the fisherman occupation. Education improvement is a primary need requiring special attention from parents. In addition, the government needs to support this need by issuing some policies siding with the grassroots, particularly the fishermen community (Saat, 2010; Fattah, 2009: 16 & Yahya, 2009: 205).

5. Conclusion

This study has successfully revealed the impacts of government policies towards the economic and educational improvement of Minangkabau and Nias-ethnic fishermen community. However, regarding

the issues of children's education improvement Nias-ethnic fishermen community needs to be given some enlightenment. This is because they gave less attention and oftentimes neglected the education issues. Different from the Minangkabau-ethnic community who did not wish to inherit the fisherman occupation to their children, Nias-ethnic community tended to inherit the fish-catching skills to their children.

6. Acknowledgment

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